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GRMN 352H.01: German Culture 1900 to the Present

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GRMN 352H / MCLG 331H German Culture 1900 to the Present

Spring 2016

MWF 2:10-3:00 in LA 207

Professor Ametsbichler (liz.ametsbichler@mso.umt.edu)

Office: LA 332; Office Hours: MWF 3:00-4:00 or by appointment

Phone: 243-5001

Course Description:

This interdisciplinary course offers an overview of major cultural developments in German-speaking culture from the late nineteenth century to the present. Students will become familiar with the chronology of historical developments in twentieth- and twenty-first-century Central Europe, as well as the role German-speaking culture has played in world events in the twentieth century and into the present millennium. The course will examine the historical impact of the two world wars in Central Europe, as well as movements and trends after World War II that led to German unification in 1990. We also will explore the developments in Central Europe since reunification within the broader context of German and Central European cultural history and today's global trends. Our discussion will also include the role that Germany and Austria have played in Europe since reunification. In addition, we will explore the interconnectedness of politics, art, literature, and film.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to identify and examine key movements and figures in German cultural history from the late nineteenth to early twenty-first century and draw connections between phenomena through a German Studies approach that emphasizes the chronological, geographical, and topical dimensions of the material covered.
2. Students will be able to formulate arguments and ties concerning the development of German-speaking culture in the twentieth century that bring various disciplinary dimensions together.
3. Through different critical approaches toward the Central European subject matter, students will be able to argue and highlight the global significance of developments and events in German cultural history from the late nineteenth century to the present.
4. Students will successfully be able to research and convey key problems and arguments on a topic related to German cultural history from the late nineteenth century to the present in an 8-10 page research paper. This paper will be developed in stages, including an initial prospect, an annotated bibliography, and a first draft that will be reviewed and revised for a final draft.

Required Textbooks:

- Burns, Rob, ed. *German Cultural Studies. An Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1995.
- Gay, Peter. *Weimar Culture. The Outsider as Insider*. New York: Norton, 2001.
- Schlink, Bernhard. *The Reader*. Trans. Carol Brown Janeway. New York: Vintage, 1997.
- Schnitzler, Arthur. *Fräulein Else* [1924]. Transl. F.H. Lyon. London: Pushkin, 2012
- Wolf, Christa. *The Quest For Christa T.* [1968]. Transl. Christopher Middleton. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1970.

Other readings will be available by handout. Text readings will be complemented by presentations in class on such topics as art history, urban history, geography, political developments, and key biographic figures. Class discussion will also be augmented by film viewing.

Course Schedule (tentative):

Mon. 1/25: Introduction: Background

I. 1890-1918: Wilhelmine Germany / Turn of the Century / World War I

Wed. 1/27 – Wed. 2/10

Readings: Rob Burns, Introduction & Chapter 1

Franz Kafka, "The Judgement" (handout)

Film: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Wednesday 2/3: Library Visit with Megan Stark (meet at the library: MLIB 283)

II. 1918-1933: The Weimar Republic

Fri. 2/12 – Mon. 2/29; **Mon. 2/15 = President's Day: Holiday**

Readings: Peter Gay, Preface, Chapters 1 & 2

Burns, Chapter 2

Arthur Schnitzler, *Fräulein Else*

Poetry (handouts)

Film: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*

Friday 2/19: Website Essay (1st Draft) Due

III. 1933-1945: The Nazi Regime and the Holocaust

Wed. 3/2 – Mon. 3/21

Readings: Burns, Chapter 3

Films: TBA

Monday 3/7: Website Essay (2nd draft) Due

Monday 3/21: First Draft of Abstract and Bibliography Due

IV. 1945-1961: Postwar Germany / The Building of the Wall

Wed. 3/23 – Fri. 4/1

Readings: Burns, Chapter 5

Heinrich Böll, "Pale Anna" (handout)

Wolfgang Borchert, "Rats Do Sleep at Night" (handout)

Paul Celan, "Death Fugue" (handout)

Film: TBA

Monday 3/23: Midterm

Friday 4/11: Rewrite of Abstract and Bibliography

V. 1961-1989: Divided Germany / The Cold War / Fall of the Wall

Monday 4/4 – 4/8: SPRING BREAK

Mon. 4/11 – Fri. 4/22

Readings: Burns, Chapter 6

Christa Wolf, *The Quest for Christa T.*
Film: *The Promise* (or *The Lives of Others*)
Monday 4/22: First Draft of Research Paper Due

VI. 1989-2010: German Reunification / Looking Ahead / EU

Mon. 4/25 – Fri. 5/6

Readings: Burns, Chapter 7

Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader*

Film: *The Reader*

Friday 5/6: Final Draft of Research Paper Due

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 9th @ 3:20-5:20

Required Assignments and Tests:

Course material will be offered in the form of assigned readings, as well as class lectures that cover and complement readings. Coursework will also involve your own research for writing assignments. In addition to the writing assignments, there will be a written midterm exam and written in-class final exam, both of which will cover informational and thematic questions in order to gauge your comprehension of class material and your capacity to organize points and observations in the context of themes covered in the course. You are expected to keep up with readings and film viewings and to participate in class discussion both individually and in groups.

The formal writing assignments include:

1. Website Essay (2 pp.):
In this essay you will synthesize critical observations regarding a web resource that you have found related to a topic in German Studies, as well discuss material found via your chosen web resource related to key terms, topics, and ideas of the course.
2. Annotated Bibliography for Research Paper (3 pp.):
Your working bibliography will allow you to illustrate your ability to find and collect appropriate resources, as well as use correct citation methods for your class research paper. Your annotated bibliography will provide the initial framework through which key ideas derived from your sources will begin to frame the blueprint of your research paper.
3. Research Prospectus (1 p.):
Your prospectus will allow you to identify and focus on the central theme of your paper, as well to synthesize supporting facts, ideas, and material related to your research topic succinctly and clearly in a one-page scope.
4. Research Paper (8 pp.)
This is the final trajectory of assignments 2) and 3), where you will synthesize key ideas from your abstract and your annotated bibliography. You will incorporate and organize the materials you have found to complete a comprehensive discussion of ideas, observations, and arguments, including your own, with properly cited (MLA) and referenced sources.

Each of these written assignments will involve the submission of a first draft for which your instructor will provide commentary and suggestions to include for a following draft. Your response to instructor feedback is an important component of your learning experience in the course. The final grade for each writing assignment will be based on both the initial and second draft. The combination of your work with reading assignments, research and writing assignments, tests, and participation in class discussion will help you reach the learning outcomes of the course as we examine the course of German-speaking culture from the end of the nineteenth century to the present day.

Course Guidelines and Policies

Please note the course guidelines and policies following below under the headings: “Student Conduct and Student Conduct Code,” “Attendance,” “Course Withdrawal,” “Disability Modifications,” “Assignment Expectations,” and “Grading.”

Additionally, please be mindful of your consumption of food and drink in class, as well as your use of electronics. While computers and tablets are allowed for reading of texts, please refrain from texting and emailing during class as this is disruptive and can be intrusive. Thanks.

Student Conduct and Student Conduct Code:

Recognize that it is the obligation of the instructor as well as students to maintain a climate of consideration and respect for all those who participate in the course. A good deal of the course will involve the sharing of views and opinions on various topics. It is important that they are exchanged and discussed in a considerate, productive manner so that everyone has the chance to participate eagerly and fairly. Listening to what your peers have to say and to share is an important part of your learning experience. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code of the University as it pertains to your responsibility to be respectful of your fellow students, abide by campus policies, and to hand in work and/or perform activities assigned that reflect your own work as indeed representing your own efforts and research with citations and references of others when necessary. The Code is available for review online at: http://www.umn.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

Attendance:

It is expected that all students will attend class when the course meets. Except under unusual circumstances, if a student misses 4 class sessions during the semester, the final grade will be lowered by half a grade: A- becomes B+. Likewise, if a student misses more than 7 class sessions during the semester, the final grade will be lowered one whole grade: A becomes B, B becomes C, etc. Missing more than 12 sessions may be regarded as grounds for failing the course.

Course Withdrawal:

Your instructor follows general University guidelines and deadlines concerning course withdrawal. Those policies can be found online at: <http://www.umn.edu/uac/adddrop.php>

Disability Modifications:

This course offers equal opportunity in education for all participants, including those with documented physical and documented learning disabilities. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance and you have not already registered with Disability Services for Students, please contact Disability Services for Students (DSS) in Lomasson Center, Room 154, or call 406-243-2243. The DSS website is: <http://www.umn.edu/dss/>

Your instructor will work with you and DSS to provide appropriate modifications. Please note that your instructor can only provide modifications if notified and that such modifications are made after an instructor has been given appropriate information and formal indication by the student and DSS.

Assignment Expectations:

Please follow and adhere to directions given for course assignments. If directions are not clear, be sure to consult your instructor as soon as possible. Assignments are expected to be handed in on time for full credit. The midterm and final exams are expected to be taken at the time they are scheduled. Quizzes will be announced at least two sessions before the date on which they will be given. Unless subject to special circumstances (documented illness, family emergency, university-related absence or travel, religious observation, or other possible reasons you may discuss with your instructor) or by agreement with your instructor beforehand, missed tests will result in no credit for those tests. Late writing assignments prior to the final draft of the research paper may be accepted for partial credit within one class session of the due date. The final draft of the research paper is to be handed in on the last day of classes, May 6th.

Grading:

Your grade will be based on the following percentage breakdown:

Written Assignments:	Website Paper (1 st and 2 nd Draft)	50 points	(10% of 500)
	Prospectus	25 points	(5 % of 500)
	Preparatory Bibliographic Review	25 points	(5% of 500)
	Research Paper (1 st and 2 nd Draft)	150 points	(30% of 500)
Exams:	Midterm Exam:	75 points	(15% of 500)
	Final Exam:	125 points	(25% of 500)
Classroom Participation:		50 points	(10% of 500)

Total points 500

Final Accumulative Course Grade:

465 – 500 points (93% - 100 %)	=	A
450 – 464 points (90% - 92.9 %)	=	A-
435 – 449 points (87 % - 89.9%)	=	B+
415 – 434 points (83% - 86.9%)	=	B
400 – 414 points (80 % - 82.9%)	=	B-
385 – 399 points (77 % - 79.9 %)	=	C+
365 – 384 points (73% - 76.9 %)	=	C
350 – 364 points (70 % - 72.9%)	=	C-
335 – 349 points (67% - 69.9%)	=	D+
315 – 334 points (63 % - 66.9%)	=	D
300 – 314 points (60% - 62.9%)	=	D-
299 points or lower (59.9% or lower)	=	F

Questions / Advising

If you have any questions or need advice regarding the class, international or German interests, study abroad, or anything related, please feel free to reach me by phone (243-5001) or e-mail (liz.ametsbichler@mso.umt.edu) or stop by my office during office hours. I would be happy to talk with you! Wishing you a great Spring Semester 2016 in GRMN 352H / MCLG 352H!